

Message Text

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41

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TAGS: TBIO, FR

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE ON ELECTROANESTHESIA

1. PROF. AIME LIMOGUE, A WELL-KNOWN FRENCH MEDICAL RESEARCHER, EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO SCICON THAT THE U.S. GOVT BE OFFICIALLY REPRESENTED AT THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ELECTROSLEEP AND ELECTROANESTHESIA, MARCH 18 TO 22 IN PARIS. THE SYMPOSIUM IS BEING HELD IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE 8TH CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN NEURO-ELECTRIC SOCIETY. LIMOGUE BASED HIS REQUEST ON THE CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT WHICH THE U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND HAS PROVIDED FOR HIS RESEARCH ON ELECTROANESTHESIA. LIMOGUE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE RECEIVED ABOUT \$100,000 ANNUALLY TO DEVELOP PORTABLE INSTRUMENTATION WHICH PRODUCES SAFE, QUICKLY-INDUCED, DEPTH-REGULATABLE, RAPIDLY REVERSIBLE GENERAL ELECTROANESTHESIA.

2. LIMOGUE'S METHODS ARE SIMPLE. DURING AN OPERATION, THE ANESTHESIZING CURRENT IS APPLIED CONTINUOUSLY TO THE PATIENT BY AN ELECTRODE JUST ABOVE THE BRIDGE
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OF THE NOSE AND ANOTHER BEHIND THE MASTOID BONE.

SOME CONVENTIONAL ANESTHESIA DRUGS ARE USED. THE PATIENT IS RENDERED ANESTHESIZED AS LONG AS THE CURRENT FLOWS. BASED ON OVER 200 OPERATIONS, LIMOGÉ CLAIMS THAT THE ELECTROANESTHESIA TECHNIQUES POSE THE FOLLOWING ADVANTAGES AS COMPARED WITH CONVENTIONAL TECHNIQUES RELYING SOLELY ON DRUGS: 1) CONSIDERABLE REDUCTION IN THE USE OF DRUGS (PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN KIDNEY OPERATIONS); 2) LITTLE OR NO POST-OPERATIVE DISTRESS; 3) DECREASE IN INFECTIONS OBSERVED POST-OPERATIVELY FOR ALL MAJOR UROLOGICAL OPERATIONS. THE ONLY OBSERVED COUNTER-INDICATION WAS A MODERATE DROP IN BLOOD PRESSURE, WHICH WAS REVERSIBLE AND NOT GREAT ENOUGH TO CAUSE A PROBLEM. LIMOGÉ ADDED THAT RESEARCH WAS BEING DONE IN AUSTRIA ON USING ELECTRIC METHODS FOR LOCAL ANESTHESIA. CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS, HE SAID, HAS BEEN OBTAINED IN BIRTH DELIVERIES WHEREIN THE PATIENT HAS RETAINED FULL MUSCULAR CONTROL WITHOUT FEELING SENSATION OF PAIN.

3. LIMOGÉ BELIEVES THAT ELECTROANESTHESIA IS ON THE VERGE OF A GENERAL ACCEPTANCE AND THAT THE SYMPOSIUM IN MARCH WILL BE A MILESTONE IN THIS PROCESS. WE OF COURSE CANNOT EVALUATE THIS CLAIM, THOUGH SCIATT ATTENDED ONE COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION OF ELECTROANESTHESIA. LIMOGÉ HOPES THAT THE USG WOULD BE REPRESENTED IN RECOGNITION OF ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT OF HIS RESEARCH. HE ADDED THAT THE FRENCH MINISTER OF HEALTH WOULD PRESIDE OVER THE CONFERENCE.

4. LIMOGÉ WAS TOLD THAT "OFFICIAL" GOVERNMENTAL DELEGATIONS ARE NORMAL FOR MEETINGS OF GOVERNMENTS AND THAT INDIVIDUALS (EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY BE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES) ATTEND NON-GOVERNMENTAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIA. HE SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND BUT CONTINUES TO DESIRE SOME FORM OF SPECIAL USG NOTICE. SCICON OFFERED TO RELAY HIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION.

5. DEPT MAY WISH TO DISCUSS LIMOGÉ'S REQUEST WITH
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THE U.S. ARMY MEDICAL R & D COMMAND TO DETERMINE WHETHER HIS WORK MERITS SPECIAL RECOGNITION, PERHAPS IN THE FORM OF A CONGRATULATORY NOTE. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICE PLANS TO ATTEND THE OPENING SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE.
RUSH

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